

## Message

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**From:** Alpern, Michael [Alpern.Michael@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 10/29/2020 2:13:36 AM  
**To:** Busterud, John [Busterud.John@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Munoz, Charles [munoz.charles@epa.gov]; Manzanilla, Enrique [Manzanilla.Enrique@epa.gov]; Lyons, John [Lyons.John@epa.gov]; Gill, Sonam [Gill.Sonam@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Talking pts for your call with Sen Feinstein

Hi John,

Please find below suggested messages for you to deliver to Sen Feinstein on tomorrow's call. Superfund drafted (thanks Enrique); ORC and I have both reviewed.

Regards,

Mike Alpern - Director, Public Affairs  
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### Intro

- I appreciate your interest in the underlying situation discussed in the LA Times article. We are interested as well, and were in frequent touch with the reporter as she developed the piece.

### Deep water ocean dump sites

- The existence and use of deep water ocean dump sites is well known and has been fairly well documented, as early as 1973.
- In addition to the two sites off Catalina Island, there are 11 more off the Southern California coast that were approved to receive chemical, refinery and other wastes from the 1930's through the 1960's.

### Federal/state response to Montrose

- The Superfund Natural Resource Trustees (DOI, NOAA and California agencies) did pursue Montrose and its parent companies in the litigation discussed in the article.
- The Trustees did settle their claims with the Montrose companies.
- The Trustees have established the Montrose Settlement Restoration Program to continue the work on ecological and natural resource impacts of the DDT released by Montrose off the coast of California.
- I would suggest that you and your staff discuss with the Natural Resource Trustees their damage assessment and claims that were part of that litigation, as well as their current work and plans.

### Superfund

- EPA's Superfund Program work has been confined to the near shore area, the Palos Verdes Shelf, where large quantities of DDT were released from the Montrose Torrance plant through sewer lines running directly to the ocean floor.
- From a human health perspective, we implemented extensive, highly successful educational outreach and inspection programs to address possible hazards to the subsistence fishing community.
- Our ongoing evaluation of sediment, water, and fish long-term cleanup strategies is being done in close consultation with federal (NOAA, USGS, FWS), state, local, NGO, and academic technical experts.

- EPA also pursued Montrose Corporation and its parent companies under the Superfund law for the DDT contamination from its Torrance plant. That litigation is also mentioned in the article. The litigation continues and remaining issues are scheduled for trial in December 2020.
  - **If Pressed:** We are unable to comment on the litigation.